Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 /010 W

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3472

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 1893

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CM

SUBJECT: ISS CAMP COUNSELOR PROGRAM

FOR CU/AF O'BRIEN

REF: YAOUNDE 1702., STATE 120800.

- 1. UNIVERSITY, ALTHOUGH A PARTICIPANT IN SELECTION PROCESS, HAS DECIDED IT YIELDED AN UNFORTUNATELY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS FROM ANGLOPHONE SECTION OF CAMEROON. THIS, THOUGH A NATURAL RESULT OF CRITERIA WHICH INCLUDE ENGLISH SPEAKING ABILITY, POSES A POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR THEM. IN ADDITION, IT RUNS COUNTER TO THEIR POLICY OF ENCOURAGING GRANTS TO ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES FOR FRANCOPHONES AND VICE VERSA TO FOSTER BILINGUALISM WHICH IS COUNTRY'S DECLARED POLICY.
- 2. THEY HAVE AGREED, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY, NOT TO CANCEL PROGRAM ON THIS ACCOUNT, BUT THEY ASK US (CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITY HIMSELF) TO SEE WHAT CAN PRACTICALLY BE DONE IN VERY LIMITED TIME REMAINING TO REDRESS IMBALANCE. THEY ARE NOT REQUESTING THAT ANY NAMES BE STRUCK OFF THE LIST, ESPECIALLY AS ALL HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR OWN MONEY TOWARD IT, BUT THEY REQUEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ADDING NEW NAMES TO BE PROPOSED BY THEM-- PERHAPS UP TO FOUR ADDITIONAL NAMES. THEY ASSURE THAT NEW CANDIDATES, THOUGH FRANCOPHONE, WILL BE QUITE COMPETENT IN ENGLISH.
- 3. WE RECOGNIZE THIS WILL REQUIRE EXTREMELY HASTY ASSEMBLY OF ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, ORGANIZING DEPARTURE PROCEDURES, FORMALITIES, UNCLASSIFIED

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ETC. IT ALSO WOULD, IT APPEARS FROM HERE, REQUIRE PROPORTIONATE

INCREASE IN CONTACT AWARDED TO ISS BY DEPARTMENT AND LAST-MINUTE CAPABILITY BY ISS TO FIND ADDITIONAL COUNSELOR POSITIONS. AND IN FINAL ANALYSIS WE NOT AT ALL CERTAIN UNIVERSITY WILL BE ABLE COME UP WITH NAMES IN SHORT TIME REMAINING.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT REPLY AS TO WHETHER REQUEST CAN BE MET AND DEADLINE FOR FORWARDING FULL PARTICULARS ON PROPOSED NEW PARTICIPANTS. WE WOULD EXPECT COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS AT THIS END FOR DEPARTURE AND TRANSPORTATION. WE RECOGNIZE SUCH A CHANGE AT THIS POINT POSES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, BUT WE WANT TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLILITIES OF BEING RESPONSIVE TO POLICY PROBLEM THIS ISSUE POSES UNIVERSITY AND GURC. MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1974YAOUND01893 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740154-0779

From: YAOUNDE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740642/aaaabjug.tel Line Count: 74

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION CU Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a

Previous Classification: 11/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: YAOUNDE 1702., STATE 120800.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: n/o

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 25 SEP 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 SEP 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <10 JAN 2003 by WorrelSW>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ISS CAMP COUNSELOR PROGRAM FOR CU/AF O'BRIEN

TAGS: OEXC, CM To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005